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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Police System in Brandenburg

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1. The police in Land Brandenburg consists of:
 - a. The Landespolizei
 - b. Special police units under the direct control of the German Administration of the Interior.
2. The Landespolizei, headed by Ministerialdirektor and Police General Staimer, is sub-divided into the following branches:
 - a. The Schutzpolizei (uniformed constabulary)
 - b. The Verwaltungspolizei (administrative police)
 - c. The Kriminalpolizei (criminal police)
3. The uniformed constabulary
4. The administrative police branch is commanded by Polizeirat Lebeck. It is sub-divided into trade police, traffic police, and strictly administrative police. It is notable that the prosecution of violations of the price laws has been entrusted to the administrative police. In order to meet its expenses the administrative police has to raise a fixed quota of fines, a corresponding amount being automatically deducted from its budgetary allocations. As an example, the city of Potsdam has to impose monthly fines amounting to at least 90,000 Deutsche Mark in order to sustain itself.
5. The Criminal Police is headed by Oberpolizeirat Krauthausen. His deputy is Polizeirat Schwercke. Until recently it comprised the following Kommissariate: K 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5; K 1 charged with the investigation of capital crimes, K 2 theft, K 3 economic crimes, K 4 other crimes, and K 5 political cases. A recent re-organization provided for Kommissariate a, b, c, d, with K 5

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6. K 5 was activated toward the end of 1948 in the Landes-kriminalamt and the Kriminalämter subordinated to it. Its main task was the investigation of cases by SMA Directive 201 concerning de-nazification. In addition it discharged certain special assignments of political nature on direct orders of the Minister of the Interior, such as political control measures, surveillance of assemblies, movie theaters, etc. In the course of 1948/49 the number of special political cases continued to increase. Therefore, K 5 decided in March 1949 to segregate all cases under SMA Directive 201 from K 5 and transfer them to the jurisdiction of a special office designated "Dienststelle des Ministers des Innern, Bereich 201".
7. The latest development is that K 5's importance and the scope of its responsibilities has grown to a point where it has become necessary to take it out from under the control of the criminal police. Allegedly K 5 has been placed under direct control of the chief of the Land police and is currently known by the designation "operative Gruppe". * The Land police still handles administrative matters (personnel, etc.) of K 5. The table of organization of K 5 is scheduled to be brought up to 280.
8. K 5 does not avail itself of informants or time agents. It gets its information mostly from functions and members of the SED. It keeps in touch with shops, trade unions and maintains information on all government offices and important business enterprises. Although K 5 operates independently, its cooperation with the Volkspolizei is of a most intimate nature. K 5 is in the closest conjunction with the "NKVD" represented by Pol. Kusnietzov.
9. All persons arrested by K 5 are held in the so-called Polizei-gefängnis II which, since it does not fall within the purview of the judiciary, fails to afford its inmates the protection of the law against arbitrary arrest. This police prison had been installed at the beginning of 1946 to serve as a detention place for all persons taken into custody without a proper arrest warrant. Though it was ostensibly confined to persons arrested for political crimes, the argument that all so-called economic offenses also constituted political crimes led to an increasing incidence of detention on general grounds of undesirability. For a short period the public prosecutor of Potsdam was granted limited rights of supervision. At the end of 1948, however, the "NKVD" asserted its right of supervision. It determined opposition of the Volkspolizei to the Internal Affairs, SMA Branch, henceforth denied access to the records of Polizei-gefängnis II.
10. Notable exploits of K 5 were Operation "Schwarze Aktion", the arrest of all Jewish residents in Brandeburg, the arrest of news dealers suspected of selling prohibited newspapers, during the 1949 Volkskongress election campaign, the mass arrest of persons caught in the possession of election posters or opposing the SED party.
11. K 5 is headed by Polizeirat (fnu) Heilmann, a former time Communist who came up from the work camps. He is approximately 40 years. His deputy is Polizeirat (fnu) Bröcker. He was under investigation for criminal activities committed in an official capacity. Presumably he is a member of the "NKVD", charges were never actively pressed against him. The files in the case disappeared. One of the more important operatives of K 5 is one (fnu) Schindelmeister.

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Comment: Whether the designation "operative Gruppe" is an official one remains open to doubt. K 5 is known to hide its activities behind a number of innocuous sounding designations and most likely this is one of them, also meant to connote its close affinity with what is popularly known as "NKVD".

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** ~~Washington Comment~~

** ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment: Fatov was identified in 1948 as a major, Chief of Denazification Subsection, OVD Brandenburg. He later assumed investigation duties and was known to be an agent recruiting officer for OVD Brandenburg.

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